



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

RECEIVED  
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January 10, 1997

The Honorable  
Lee Ann Elliott  
Commissioner  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E. Street N.W.  
Suite 914  
Washington, D.C. 20463

Re: MUR 4583

Dear Ms. Elliott:

We have received from the Embassy of India a copy of your November 25 letter and attachments regarding a possible violation of U.S. election law by the Embassy of India and Devendra Singh, and a copy of the Embassy's response to the FEC. Because the matter involves a foreign government, we request that you coordinate all action with the State Department. As you may know, pursuant to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, foreign governments are immune from suit in U.S. courts unless the claim falls within one of the Act's enumerated exceptions. (28 USC 1602 et seq.) Moreover, under international law, foreign governments are not subject to penal proceedings.

The State Department does not condone violations of US election law. However, due to international and domestic law constraints regarding judicial proceedings against foreign governments, the most effective manner in which to curtail any such violation by a foreign embassy is through coordination with the State Department. Should the FEC wish to further pursue this matter, please contact Mary Catherine Malin in my office on 202-647-1074.

Sincerely,

*Linda Jacobson*

Linda Jacobson  
Assistant Legal Adviser  
Office of the Legal Adviser

3430-462-40-66